



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

***Raised Bill No. 7205***

LCO No. 4685



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY LITERACY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-145r of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

3 For the school year commencing July 1, 2014, and biennially  
4 thereafter, the local or regional board of education that employs a  
5 certified individual who holds an initial, provisional or professional  
6 educator certificate with an early childhood nursery through grade  
7 three or an elementary endorsement in a position requiring such an  
8 endorsement in kindergarten to grade three, inclusive, shall require  
9 each such certified individual to take a survey on reading instruction,  
10 developed by the Department of Education that is based on the  
11 reading instruction examination approved by the State Board of  
12 Education on April 1, 2009, or a comparable reading instruction  
13 examination with minimum standards that are equivalent to the  
14 examination approved by the State Board of Education on April 1,  
15 2009. The department shall design such survey in a manner that  
16 identifies the strengths and weaknesses of such certified individuals in

17 reading instruction practices and knowledge on an individual, school  
18 and district level. Such survey shall be administered at no financial  
19 cost to such certified individual, [and in a manner that protects the  
20 anonymity of such certified individual.] The results of such survey  
21 shall be distributed to such certified individual and the supervisor of  
22 such certified individual who is responsible for designing and  
23 facilitating the program of professional development conducted  
24 pursuant to section 10-148b for such certified individual, but shall not  
25 be included as part of any summative ratings for performance  
26 evaluations, conducted pursuant to section 10-151b, and not be subject  
27 to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in  
28 section 1-200. Such results shall be used for the purpose of improving  
29 reading instruction by developing student learning objectives and  
30 teacher practice goals that will be included in the professional  
31 development conducted pursuant to section 10-148b for such certified  
32 individuals.

33 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2017*) (a) The Department of  
34 Education shall establish a reading readiness program that provides  
35 tiered supports in early literacy to local and regional boards of  
36 education. The department shall determine the reading readiness of  
37 each school and school district by considering any combination of the  
38 following: (1) Whether the school or school district has developed and  
39 is implementing a multiyear plan and allocated resources specifically  
40 for kindergarten through grade three literacy, (2) whether teachers and  
41 administrators have received training regarding the science of teaching  
42 reading, and the extent to which teachers and administrators have  
43 completed the program of professional development in scientifically  
44 based reading research and instruction, pursuant to section 10-148b of  
45 the general statutes, (3) the level of access to external coaches in  
46 literacy, and (4) whether there is reading intervention staff embedded  
47 at the school or in the school district.

48 (b) The department shall offer tiered supports in literacy to local and  
49 regional boards of education based on the reading readiness of a

50 school or school district, as determined in subsection (a) of this section.  
51 Such tiered supports shall be provided as follows:

52 (1) Tier one universal supports shall be provided to all schools and  
53 school districts and include online professional development modules  
54 aligned with the reading instruction survey, as described in section 10-  
55 145r of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and other literacy  
56 modules and programs available in the state;

57 (2) Tier two targeted supports shall be provided to those schools  
58 and school districts with an identified need and requires (A) certain  
59 teachers and administrators to complete a two-year program of literacy  
60 leadership training, (B) targeted professional development, in  
61 accordance with the provisions of section 10-148b of the general  
62 statutes, using the results of the reading instruction survey, as  
63 described in section 10-145r of the general statutes, as amended by this  
64 act, and (C) external coaching support using alliance district or  
65 commissioner's network of schools funding; and

66 (3) Tier three intensive supports shall be provided to those schools  
67 and school districts with an identified need and requires multiyear  
68 support from the department and commitment from the school or  
69 school district, including, but not limited to, the use of alliance district  
70 funding to support a kindergarten through grade three reading  
71 literacy program, technical support in the drafting and submission of  
72 alliance district reading plans, identifying and embedding dedicated  
73 literacy coaches and reading interventionists, targeted and intensive  
74 professional development, and funds for assessment and instructional  
75 materials.

76 (c) If such tiered supports are for a school participating in the  
77 commissioner's network of schools, pursuant to section 10-223h of the  
78 general statutes, or a school located in or a school district for a town  
79 designated as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u of the  
80 general statutes, such tiered supports shall be aligned with any

81 turnaround plan, developed pursuant to section 10-223h of the general  
82 statutes, or alliance district plan, developed pursuant to section 10-  
83 262u of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	10-145r
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To require that the results of the reading instruction survey be distributed to teachers and supervisors for the purpose of informing such teacher's professional development in reading instruction and to establish a reading readiness program that provides tiered supports in early literacy to schools and school districts.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*